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Assembly
California Legislature
SAN DIEGO REGIONAL
WATER QUALITY
CONTROL BOARD

COMMITTEES
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MARTIN GARRICK
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, SEVENTY-FOURTH DISTRICT

January 21, 2009

Chair Richard Wright and Regional Board Members
San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board
San Diego – Region 9
9174 Sky Park Court, Suite 100
San Diego, CA 92123

Dear Chairman Wright and members of the Board,

I am pleased to offer this letter on behalf of the Carlsbad Desalination Project which is located in my Assembly District. I proudly represent residents throughout the cities of Carlsbad, Del Mar, Encinitas, Escondido, Oceanside, Rancho Santa Fe, San Diego, San Marcos, Solana Beach, and Vista, and many of my constituents will benefit greatly from the security of a new drought-proof, reliable and environmentally responsible supply of water. As such, I urge your approval of the Carlsbad Desalination Plant's Marine Life Mitigation Plan (Plan).

This important water infrastructure project will supply the City of Carlsbad with its entire annual supply of water, while assuming all risks associated with the financing, development, construction and operation of the project.

Over the past few months, this Plan has undergone a collaborative interagency review process led by the Coastal Commission staff. As a result, it is truly protective of the marine environment, and therefore is consistent with the Coastal Act.

Poseidon intends to implement a plan whereby 55.4 acres of marine wetlands will be restored, as exemplified by the Coastal Commission's mitigation plan at the San Onofre Nuclear Plant. Your approval of the Plan will allow an environmentally-sound project that has been in the development and environmental review process for more than a decade to commence construction.

Collectively, the City of Carlsbad, the State Lands Commission, the Coastal Commission, and the Regional Board have done their due diligence, analyzing the project extensively and concluding there are no significant, unavoidable impacts for both the construction and on-going operation of the plant. I feel strongly that this project will have no detrimental effects on the coastline or marine habitat surrounding the plant and I urge your approval of the Marine Life Mitigation Plan at your upcoming meeting on February 11, 2009.

Sincerely,

Martin Garrick
Assembly District 74

cc:

David King, Vice Chairman

Eric Anderson, Board Member

Grant Destache, Board Member

George Loveland, Board Member

Wayne Rayfield, Board Member

Gary Thompson, Board Member

Kris Weber, Board Member

John Robertus, Executive Director

Catherine Hagan, Regional Board Attorney